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# MR. GLADSTONE AND THE BODLEIAN

## OXFORD'S POVERTY

(REPRINTED FROM THE EDITION OF 1894)

## BODLEY AND THE BODLEIAN

1598—1898

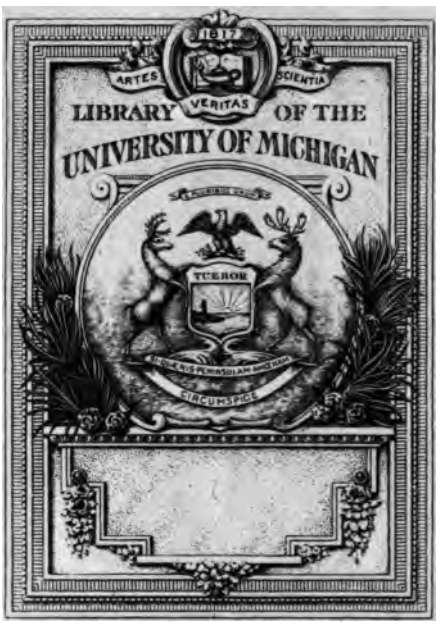
BY

EDWARD W. B. NICHOLSON, M.A.

BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN

OXFORD

1898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SIRCUMSPICE

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THE BODLEIAN BUST OF MR. GLADSTONE

SCULPTURED BY WOOLNER IN 1866
AND PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY BY SUBSCRIBERS

# MR. GLADSTONE AND THE BODLEIAN

## OXFORD'S POVERTY

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1898

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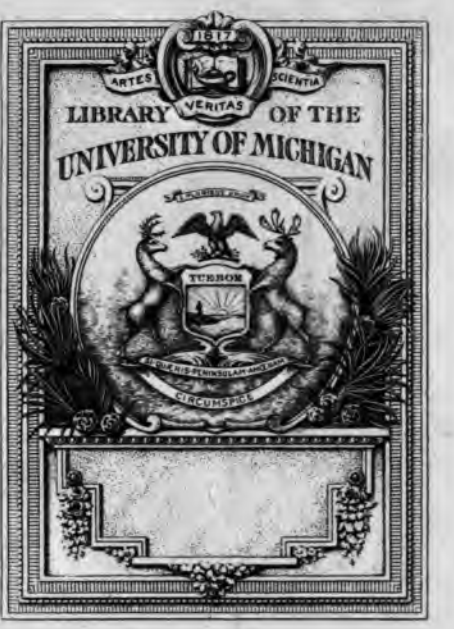
# MR. GLADSTONE
# AND THE BODLEIAN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# MR. GLADSTONE
# AND THE BODLEIAN

# MR. GLADSTONE AND THE BODLEIAN

'The Spectator' of June 18, 1898, has an article of two columns, headed 'The best memorial for Mr. Gladstone,' which advocates the endowment of the Bodleian Library as a national, unpolitical, and unsectarian memorial to Mr. Gladstone.

It is very common to utilize the public admiration of a great man as a stalking-horse for one's own ends. I have so strong a distaste for that practice that I purposely abstained * from making the proposal which appears in 'The Spectator.' I hoped that it might occur to some disinterested

* The letter of mine from which 'The Spectator' quotes was not written on the subject of a Gladstone memorial, and made no allusion to one. A correspondent of 'The Standard,' confounding the Radcliffe building (occupied by the Bodleian) with the Radcliffe Library (which is at the University Museum), had led the readers of that paper to suppose that the Bodleian had received a gift of £20,000 from the Drapers' Company. In correcting that misapprehension, I took occasion to say in 'The Standard' how greatly we needed, and how well we had deserved, benefaction, and how Mr. Gladstone had spontaneously exerted himself, but in vain, to obtain it for us.

person, and it has: but, if it hadn't come from anyone else, it wouldn't have come from me. Now that the proposal has been made, however, there appears to me nothing unseemly in placing before others these three papers. The present one will assist them to form an opinion whether this is a mode of keeping Mr. Gladstone's memory green which would have pleased himself, and whether it can really serve that object. The subsequent ones will show on what state of things Mr. Gladstone's benevolence for the Bodleian was grounded, and will enable them to judge whether the Bodleian has a corresponding title to the public goodwill.

Mr. Gladstone's first visit to the Bodleian in my own librarianship was about the middle of the eighties, when he was making a short stay with the Warden of Keble, now Bishop of Rochester. He came late one afternoon, whether to see the library at large, or to make some particular inquiry, I forget; but anyhow it ended in my taking him over so large a part of it, and up so many stairs, that I said I was afraid of having tired him, and begged him to sit down. He was

glad of the rest, but said his health had been much better for the past 20 years, owing to his having followed medical advice. He expressed a distinct preference for fixed shelves over moveable ones, which, I ventured to tell him jestingly, was a striking evidence of his natural conservatism. He subsequently gave in 'The Nineteenth Century' for March, 1890, some sagacious grounds for that preference, and his own circumstances and experience may have justified it; but the type of moveable shelving which he so reasonably disliked was one which in great libraries such as ours has, I am glad to say, been long since improved out of existence.

His second visit was on April 5, 1888, a day in Easter week, during the whole of which the Bodleian building was at that time closed to readers by a University statute which has since then happily been amended. He found us in a great state of dust, upheaval, and possibly shirtsleeves, and told his friends outside, as Jowett gleefully repeated to me, that the librarian was a man who kept his nose to the grindstone. He had come to ask if we had any fine Florentine bindings; for he had lately seen some magnificent ones at Florence. His entire interest in life seemed for the moment to lie in them, and I was sorry to be obliged to tell him

that our only first-rate Italian specimens were more probably of Venetian work.

This time also he was staying with Dr. Talbot, and next morning he came again—but now it was book-storage which engrossed him: he had heard of my introducing wheeled cases, running upon rails, and wanted to see them. He told me of his intention as to the St. Deiniol's library at Hawarden, and of his consequent interest in the economical storage of books; and he asked if any librarian was able to fill more than two-thirds of the cubic space of a room with them. He showed me how he could fill that space, and drew a sketch of his plan which we shall always keep. He would build an oblong room, with one broad window at each end, and a gangway between them occupying the central third of the breadth of the room. On either side of the gangway the entire space would be filled with wheeled bookcases almost touching each other, and when you wanted a book you would pull the bookcase endwise along its rails into the lighted gangway between the two windows. My colleague, Dr. Neubauer, tells me that a similar plan is followed in Leipzig warehouses, but Mr. Gladstone's was entirely his own invention, and a masterpiece of simplicity and effectiveness. He gave me leave to print it, but eventually mentioned it himself in a note at

the end of his article 'On books and the housing of them' in 'The Nineteenth Century' for March, 1890.

On Oct. 24, 1892, he delivered in the Sheldonian the first Romanes Lecture, and next morning came up into the Bodleian. He wanted to know what we could tell him about an old English book of prayers which he had at Hawarden, apparently a form of week-day service. We had nothing answering to his description, but after he had gone Mr. W. H. Allnutt was able to write and tell him that the book might be an order of prayer for Wednesdays and Fridays. During this his last visit he sat in the librarian's chair and discoursed aloud on the book, the whole book (only I fancy it was an imperfect copy), and nothing but the book, with as much earnestness as if he had been introducing an important measure in the House. I didn't remind him that there were unseen readers in the alcoves to right and left, for I knew that the readers would gladly exchange a few minutes' work for so memorable an experience.

Now I come to the period of Mr. Gladstone's solicitude for the increase of our means. On Oct. 2, 1894, there appeared in 'The Daily News' a letter from Mr. P. Lyttelton Gell, then Secretary

of the Clarendon Press, pointing out the need of benefactors for our Oxford *colleges*, and this gave me the opportunity of writing to the same paper, of Oct. 6, a letter, headed 'Oxford's Poverty,' which urged the still greater need of benefactors for the *University*, and instanced the case of the Bodleian. 'The Daily News' gave its principal leader to what it called 'a magnificent indiscretion,' and said that the writer 'ought to have his reward in the promotion of the great public object he has in view'—but unhappily not the faintest sign of such a reward appeared until the proposal in 'The Spectator.' Well, I reprinted that letter as a pamphlet, sent it out all over Oxford, and posted copies anonymously to some four persons of whom Mr. Gladstone was one. He wrote that he had read it with 'lively interest,' and wished he were able to do more than express his 'hearty concurrence.' 'People,' he said, 'think there is a place called Oxford, and that Oxford is rich. And rightly, for, apart from the circumstances of the moment the Colleges are comparatively rich. They together with the University make up what is called Oxford. But the University is and always has been poor, while its duties and the claims made upon it largely grow.' He went on to speak of the duties and opportu-

nities of the rich. 'Two hundred millions at least, I apprehend, are added annually to the capital of the country: little of this stands to the credit of the nation. . . . What powers, what opportunities it represents: and what responsibilities where those opportunities are neglected. There is nowhere I think a stronger claim than that of the noble institution to which your energies . . . are given. . . . Would you kindly send me another copy, of which I would try to make use.'

Still no help came, and in Dec., 1896, I formed the idea of reprinting the pamphlet for circulation in special quarters. I wrote to ask Mr. Gladstone whether I might print his letter at the same time. Without answering that question he wrote back 'In a case such as that of the Bodleian, I would put in use all the 'cheek' that I possess, and make a strong application to *one* man who if he gives at all may give a sum worth having'—and then he named one who is still alive and whose wealth and noble use of it are equally known. He gave me an outline of the information he would like to transmit, and I sent him so much that he had to ask me to reduce its quantity. In May, 1897, I wrote to inquire whether he thought it prudent for me to try elsewhere as well. He strongly advised me 'not to forego or postpone

any other effort' in expectation of his friend's aid*; his friend had written him a letter which did not enable him to report any progress. But he had written again some time since to his friend, and thought he should eventually have a reply: 'As long as there is any hope I shall not give him up.'

As to the application of any fund which might be put at our disposal, that would of course depend on its amount: there is no sum so small that we cannot use it, no sum so large that we should waste it. I will only say that what we really need money for most is not the accumulation of books—within our recognized scope of collecting (though no doubt it might be enlarged) we have means enough to purchase those—but for an adequate staff; for completer catalogues both of printed books and MSS.; for the catalogues, which as yet don't exist at all, of our printed music, our maps, our engravings, our drawings and illuminations in manuscripts, our paintings, our coins, our seals, and the like; for practical improvements (such as the electric lighting of the

* And I didn't. I wrote to three of the richest commoners in England, asking if I might send them a statement on behalf of the Bodleian: two of them gave me a negative answer, the third none.

Radcliffe reading-room, the warming of the Bodleian portrait-gallery); and for the present shelving and future housing of our stores. By and by we shall want an additional building: if it were properly built, it needs only be as large as one single wing of the Bodleian quadrangle to hold 1,200,000 octavos—perhaps even more, if the shape of the site allowed it to be constructed on Mr. Gladstone's own plan. That might be called 'The Gladstone.' At the present moment we need to fit up the further end of our portrait-gallery as an additional reading-room, a reading-room which (with its boarded up windows unblocked) would be one of the lightest in the world—but we haven't the money to do it. That also might bear the name of 'Gladstone,' as our older reading-room bears the name of our 15th century benefactor 'Duke Humfrey.' And our precincts supply more than one site on which Mr. Gladstone might stand in stone or bronze as he stood in life when, at the beginning of his last premiership, he delivered to the University its first Romanes Lecture.

# OXFORD'S POVERTY

[REPRINT OF THE ORIGINAL 1894 EDITION, AS READ BY MR. GLADSTONE]

so inadequate, that, if it were now proposed, as it certainly will be some day, to establish an examination in mediaeval and modern languages (a proposal only lost a few years ago by a tie-vote), it would be objected that the University cannot afford to pay for examiners in the languages! And of the inadequacy of its income for the support of University institutions you shall judge by a single instance which will illustrate Mr. Gell's point, the poverty of the Colleges, as well as my own—the poverty of the University.

For the more adequate endowment of the University, the last University Commission directed that a small percentage of the net revenue of each College should be contributed by it for University purposes. In the case of All Souls' such percentage was either partly or entirely (I am not sure which) waived by the Commission in consideration of the College being directed to pay certain large and definite sums for specific University purposes. Among those purposes was the endowment of the University Library—"There shall be paid out of the corporate revenues of the College towards the maintenance of the Bodleian Library the yearly sum of £1,000." There are, however, many other charges prescribed on the revenues of the College, and from one legitimate

cause or another (notably agricultural depression, I fancy) the College was never able to pay us more than from £300 to £600 a year, and for the last eight years has been unable to pay us a farthing. In those eight years a member of the College has most generously given us seven gifts of £100 each; but, even allowing for that, the reduction of the College's estimated revenue makes this particular University institution £900 a year poorer than it would otherwise have been.

Well, the Bodleian is not only one of the few most famous libraries in the world resorted to by scholars; it is exceeded in size only by the libraries of five capital cities—the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, the British Museum, the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, and the Royal Libraries at Munich and Berlin. Its contents, even as bound up (sometimes 40 pamphlets in a volume), exceed half a million volumes, and if the separate title-pages were counted they might not be far from a million and a half; while it increases at the rate of about 57,000 items a year, including separate parts, maps, &c. It is indeed probably more than half as large as the British Museum, and increases perhaps one-third as fast, and although the proportion of readers is neces-

sarily smaller, they number hundreds daily—often more than one hundred being reading at the same moment.

Now, if I deduct from the annual income of the Bloomsbury building all that is spent on those antiquarian departments to which the Bodleian has nothing analogous, together with upwards of £17,000 spent on police, printing catalogues, warming, ventilating, fire-extinguishing, and lighting, I suppose about £65,000 a year would remain. Was the present Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Stubbs (then, and now again once more, a Curator of the Bodleian), extravagant when he said to the last University Commission "For all purposes, including salaries, repairs, purchases of books, and binding work, I think that the Bodleian ought to have an income of not less than £15,000 a year"? As a matter of fact, its average income, including all University payments made on its behalf, is still under £9,000.

What are the practical effects? They are so many, that I can only state a fraction of them. Apart from a copyright-office in London, which we share with three other libraries, we have for the entire work and service of the library, which includes two separate buildings and reading-rooms (one open for twelve hours a day), a permanent

staff of only about 34 persons, 14 of whom are boys: although we have the second largest numismatic collection in the Empire, most of it uncatalogued and hardly any of it properly arranged, we cannot keep a special numismatic assistant. For the annual dusting of our books we have to import Proctors' servants (old soldiers, ex-watermen, &c.), because we have not hands enough of our own for the work. In former generations we were even worse manned than we are at present: sometimes, perhaps, owing to the poverty of the University, sometimes, I fear, from the ignorance of some who ought to have known our needs or the lukewarmness of some who ought to have been zealous to supply them; and so immense arrears of cataloguing of MSS., printed books, music, maps, and prints have come down to us, to be wearily toiled at year after year because we are too few to work them off with reasonable speed. Our catalogue of printed books is to a large extent so obsolete and complicated in its method of arrangement, and at the same time so incomplete, that it would take several persons' work for some years to bring it abreast of the times; but that work cannot even be begun. We want two more annual grants of £250 to complete the binding of our unbound maps (including about 20,000 folio Ordnance maps), but it

is no use asking for the money at present. For £600 we might warm our portrait-gallery and save the portraits from the continuous injury to which they are exposed in our damp climate by a temperature varying from 82 deg. to 29 deg.—while at the same time we saved some of the visitors to it from taking to their beds with congestion of the lungs. We occupy the finest public building of James I's reign; for less than £2,000 we could repair most of the barbarities to which it has been subjected, restoring the transoms to the windows, opening 15 blocked windows, and replacing, or saving from further decay, much interesting and beautiful work. With a few thousand pounds we could relieve the increasing difficulty of finding room for readers, by fitting up for them part of the portrait-gallery, while at the same time we gained far more space and light for the crowded and wretchedly hung pictures. With a much smaller sum we might erect in the old Ashmolean building, soon I hope to be put at our disposal, shelving enough to take the tens of thousands of books which at present have no proper shelf-room, and to provide for a few years in advance. For an entire generation some part or other of our collections have been in a state approaching chaos either because the University cannot give us space,

or because, if it has given the space, it cannot give us the shelves!

Is the case of this particular Oxford institution unique? Far from it, I believe; but I prefer to write only of what I know fully. And the explanation is very simple. The University is popularly supposed to be rich instead of poor, and consequently it receives hardly any money-benefactions. Sometimes indeed a collection, such as the Pitt-Rivers or the Fortnum collection, worth many thousands of pounds, is presented to it—but the gift, while increasing the fame and usefulness of the University, increases also the difficulty of adequately meeting other needs—for buildings and fittings have to be erected for the new collections, and sometimes additional brains and hands employed to catalogue them. Every year, probably, some son of Oxford dies who could well afford to leave a considerable amount to his old University, and who would be willing enough to leave it if he knew it was wanted—but he doesn't know.

In the same number of the "Daily News" which contained Mr. Gell's letter was a paragraph headed "A Millionaire's Will." I always read such paragraphs, in the vain hope that the millionaire has given Oxford a few thousands, or the Bodleian

a few hundreds. This particular millionaire had left about four millions to his nephew. Another paragraph was head "Sporting Intelligence," and, not having lost a youthful interest in contests of speed and skill, I glanced at that also. I there saw that the nephew's winnings in a single race won by him the week before were £11,302. It was the third mammoth stake he had won this season alone with the same horse; and, anyhow, with four millions coming to him, he could hardly want it. What would not £11,000 be to the Bodleian?—what even would it not be to Oxford, if some old 'Varsity friend could be got to whisper the suggestion to him? I looked to the list of matriculated persons. Alas! he was not an Oxford man.

If he had been, I don't know whether the necessary suggester would have been found. "At ——," said a distinguished Oxonian to me, mentioning another University of which he also is a member, "they let it be known that they are poor, and they get helped." At Oxford we don't—or we don't let it get known by the right people—and so we don't get helped. Perhaps there is a certain feeling that it is undignified in a great University to beg, even for great objects. I have not the least doubt that even a letter written, like this, by a single official

solely on his own responsibility will be censured by some. And I sympathize with such feelings. But there is one consideration which stands in my mind even before that of corporate or official dignity—it is the consideration of our means for doing the good work which it was our mission to do, and which no one but ourselves can do.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. W. B. NICHOLSON.

*Bodleian Library, Oxford.*

# BODLEY AND THE BODLEIAN

1598–1898

TRADITIONAL PORTRAIT OF BODLEY IN 1598

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED MINIATURE, PRESENTED TO THE BODLEIAN IN 1897
BY THE REV. CANON H. N. ELLACOMBE

[The miniature has an inscription in gilt letters (on a blue ground), which the negative failed to take. On the left we have *Anõ Dñi · 1598 ·* ⊰ and on the right, running upwards, *Ætatis ſuæ : 54 :* ⊰ Bodley was born March 2, $154\frac{4}{5}$, and would be in his 54th year at any time from March 2, $159\frac{7}{8}$ to March 1, $159\frac{8}{9}$.]

UNIV. OF MICH.

# BODLEY AND THE BODLEIAN: 1598–1898

The University of Oxford had a library, in St. Mary's Church, at least as early as the beginning of the 14th century. In 1320 Thomas Cobham, bishop of Worcester, began preparations for building a special room for it over the old House of Congregation adjoining the church; but the room doesn't seem to have been begun till about 1367, or finished till 1409. Not long after this the gifts of MSS. made by Humfrey, duke of Gloucester—Shakspere's 'good Duke Humfrey'—rendered this library inadequate, and in 1444 the University informed the Duke of their intention to build a new library over the Divinity School which was already in course of erection, and offered him the title of Founder. He continued his liberality, and the new library, which began to be actually used about 1488, is still the main reading-room of the University, and is called 'Duke Humfrey.'

But in 1550 a commission for the reformation of the Universities visited the library, and the result

of its proceedings, of whatever unauthorized private plunder followed them, and perhaps of the University's own action, was the total disappearance of the books: in 1556 the University itself sold the seats and shelves! I suspect that more of those books than we know of have got back in one way or another into the Bodleian*, but at present only three are known to have done so—all of them MSS.: one, with the Duke's autograph, was given back in 1620; a second, presented in 1470 by Tiptoft, earl of Hereford, I detected among Selden's MSS., received from his executors about 1659; the third, given by the Duke, it was my good luck to identify and purchase in 1897.

Happily, in 1559 Thomas Bodley entered Magdalen. He was elected in 1563 a fellow of Merton, where he lectured to the University in Greek; and later he fulfilled the duties of Public Orator, though the title was held by another. Then he left Oxford for the Queen's diplomatic service, in which he achieved such eminence that at last he was put forward for the Secretaryship of State. But the intrigues of which he was the subject were distasteful to him; he resolved to quit politics; and no invitations from Elizabeth or James, not even

* For the former library seems to have put no mark of ownership on its books by which they might be distinguished.

the offer of the joint Secretaryship, succeeded in breaking that resolve. 'All w$^{ch}$ ꝑſwations notw$^{th}$ſtandinge . . .', he *writes in 1609, 'I haue continued ſtill at home, my retired courſe of life w$^{ch}$ is now methinks to mee, as the greatest p'ferment y$^{t}$ y$^{e}$ ſtate can afforde . . . For thus I fell to diſcorſe, and debate in my minde. That althoughe I might finde it fittest for me, to keepe out of the thronge of Court Contentions, and addreſſe my thoughts and deeds to ſuch ends altogether, as I my ſelfe coulde best affect; yet w$^{th}$ all I was to thinke, y$^{t}$ my dutie towards God, the expectation of the world, my naturall inclination, and very moralitie did require y$^{t}$ I ſhoulde not wholly ſo hide thoſe little habilities y$^{t}$ I had, but y$^{t}$ in ſome meaſuer, in one kinde or other, I coulde do the true part of a profitable member in the State: whereupon exammining exactlye for y$^{e}$ reſt of my life, what courſe I might take, and haueing ſowght (as I thought) all y$^{e}$ wayes to y$^{e}$ wood, to ſelect the moſt proper, I concluded at y$^{e}$ laſt, to ſet vp my Staffe at the Librarie dore in Oxō; being throwghly ꝑſwaded, y$^{t}$ in my ſolitude, and ſurceaſe frō the Coñonwealth affayers, I coulde not buſie my ſelfe to better purpoſe; then

* I copy not from Hearne's text, which is altered in spelling, but from Bodley's autograph lying before me.

by reduſing that place (w^ch^ then in euery part laye ruined and waſt) to the publique vſe of Studients.' And so he wrote to the Vice-Chancellor offering to do it.

That was on Feb. 23, 1598, and on Nov. 8, 1602 the University Library was reopened to readers—and has been open ever since. In 1604 James I knighted Bodley and authorized the library being called* the library of the foundation of Sir Thomas Bodley in the University of Oxford. In 1605 the king visited it, and was told by the Librarian in his Latin oration† that not only Englishmen and Scotsmen, but Italians, Frenchmen, Germans, Danes, Poles, and Swedes came to read in it. From then until now it has been a library not merely for the University, but for the learned of all nations.

In 1611 the Bodleian became a depository—at that time the only one—of the national literature, a privilege and obligation which are now the heritage of two other libraries in England (the British Museum and the Library of the University of Cambridge), one in Scotland (the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh), and one in Ireland (the Library of Trinity College,

* 'Bibliotheca ex fundatione Thomæ Bodley Militis in Vniuerſitate Oxon̄,' MS. Wood F. 27, 15. † MS. Wood D. 9, p. 77.

Dublin). The Bodleian has a right by law to claim a copy of every new book, not being a mere reprint, published in the United Kingdom; but, as regards all such books as are newly printed, or reprinted with additions, by members of the Company of Stationers, its claim rests not merely on the law but on a voluntary agreement entered into by the Company with the University in 1610–11, and recited by the Company in 1612. This shows that the Company, when binding itself and its successors, received a *quid pro quo* in the right of borrowing the books, if needed for reprinting, and also of examining, collating, and copying the books given by others: there is also a tradition found as early as 1695 'that Sir Thomas Bodley gave to the Company 50 pounds worth of plate when they entered into this Indenture.'*

Beyond the copyright-privilege and such gifts as that of Indian governmental publications the Bodleian receives, and has received, nothing from the nation. And if the nation, through Parliament, gives the Bodleian the new British publications, the Bodleian gives the nation in return the space

* See W. D. Macray, *Annals of the Bodleian Library*, 2nd ed., p. 41, for this, and pp. 40, 41, 44–46 for the entire history of the agreement.

and shelving, the binding or rebinding when necessary, and the cataloguing and service: moreover it gives these not merely for books which are desirable in themselves, but also for a much greater mass of publications which are of little or no value except as documents in the literary history of the country.

The Bodleian has now about 600,000 bound volumes, and, owing to the great numbers of pamphlets and small books bound up within the same covers, even this is a very imperfect indication of its real size. Its annual accessions of all kinds—including for instance separate parts of periodicals and separate maps—have during the last 4 years averaged 59,741 items: this includes large purchases of new foreign books and large exchanges with foreign Universities. For want of money the Bodleian has to leave the purchase of mere modern foreign *belles lettres* (fiction, verse, and miscellaneous essays) to the Taylorian Library, and the purchase of the less generally important foreign works in natural science to the Radcliffe Library at the University Museum; but the supply of foreign literature which it provides for the scholar and the student is not easily to be surpassed.

The Library now occupies the entire block of buildings surrounding the Bodleian quadrangle

(except two rooms in the Tower of Five Orders, which are devoted to the University Archives), the Radcliffe building or 'Camera,' the basement of the Sheldonian Theatre, and the basement of the Old Ashmolean Museum. It has two reading-rooms, that in the Bodleian building open from 9 a.m. to 3, 4, or 5 p.m., that in the Radcliffe building open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Except Sundays, there are only 6 days in the year when the library is entirely closed to readers, and only 2 (Christmas Day and Good Friday) on which a large part of the staff is not at work.

The readers average some hundreds daily, and their occupation is almost entirely research or study: there is hardly any 'light reading.' I find that in 1895–7 there were admitted 1697 *new* readers, of whom 541 * gave addresses showing that they were not members of the University or residents in the city. Among them no fewer than 118 came from the United States. Almost every country on the European Continent was represented—Germany foremost, and next to it. France, the Austrian Empire, and Russia. Canada, Australasia, South and East Africa, and India all con-

* No doubt the number was really larger—strangers sometimes entering in the admission-book their temporary Oxford address instead of their place of origin.

tributed readers; but probably few were so learned or stayed so long as the Director of the National Museum of Mexico, who came to work on our Mexican MSS..

The total inadequacy of the income of this grand institution arises partly from the poverty of the University as such; partly from the fact that, although many distinguished men have made themselves even more distinguished by bequeathing us rich collections, no one since Bodley's time, with the exception of Dr. Mason in 1841, has left us any considerable sum of money; and partly from the inability of All Souls for many years past to pay us any portion of the contribution assigned to it by the last Universities Commission.

In 'Oxford's Poverty' (see p. 24) I formed a rough estimate of the comparative income of the Bodleian and the British Museum. When Mr. Gladstone suggested my sending him a statement for his wealthy friend, I made a much more careful comparison. I took the latest Parliamentary returns of the income of the British Museum, those for the year 1894–5, and from these it appeared to reach the sum of £113,972 15*s.* 11*d.* By deducting the grants, or proper proportions of grants, for all departments not represented in the Bodleian, and for such work as the Bodleian does

not aim at, and for such printing as is done free of charge by the Clarendon Press, this was reduced to £73,680 15*s.* 11*d.* If we further deduct the remaining cost of police (as none are employed by the Bodleian), we get the following figures, compared with those of the Bodleian for the corresponding year.

| | British Museum, 1894–5. | | | Bodleian, 1894. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | *s.* | *d.* | £ | *s.* | *d.* |
| Salaries and wages | 38,565 | 7 | | 4,852 | 18 | 5 |
| Purchases and acquisitions | 14,883 | 12 | 11 | *1,493 | 18 | 8 |
| Bookbinding, preparing, &c. | 8,791 | 16 | | 800 | 15 | 10½ |
| Printing catalogues, &c. | 2,712 | | | 111 | 11 | 1 |
| Warming, ventilating, fire-extinguishing, and electric light apparatus | 1,620 | | | 213 | | 3 |
| Furniture and fittings | 3,670 | | | 63 | 10 | ½ |
| Incidental expenses | 1,271 | | | 416 | 5 | |
| | 71,513 | 15 | 11 | 7,951 | 19 | 4 |

After what has been said on pp. 14 and 25–6, it would be tedious to enlarge on the purposes for which money is needed; but one striking instance which has occurred since 'Oxford's Poverty' was first printed is too eloquent to be omitted. We have one of the finest collections of Sanskrit

* To this ought to be added the value of copies of the Anecdota Oxoniensia given by the Clarendon Press for exchange: this might be about £38 15*s.*

MSS. in the world, and in 1864 the University published an excellent catalogue of it. So many hundred Sanskrit MSS. had been acquired since then that it was desirable to prepare a second volume of this catalogue. The services of a first-rate Sanskritist as cataloguer were to be obtained for half-a-crown an hour, and, as the Bodleian was unable to provide this magnificent stipend, a grant of £100 was obtained from the Delegates of the Common University Fund for the purpose. With this and a further sum of £10 15*s*. paid by the Bodleian itself, 288 MSS., containing 420 separate works, were very fully and admirably catalogued. But next year the Delegates of the Common University Fund were unable to renew their contribution, and the Bodleian, having become still poorer in the meanwhile, was even less able than before to provide the necessary half-crowns: so that this catalogue has been at a complete standstill for a year and a half.

Such is the state of things in 1898, the tercentenary year of Bodley's refoundation: is it vain to hope that by 1902, the tercentenary year of the reopening of the restored University Library, such painful and pitiful struggles may have become an almost incredible legend?

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